

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 32 and 36 are currently amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-36, 38-39 and 41-48 are pending, claims 37 and 40 have been canceled, and claims 3, 5, 11-13, 16-18, 26-30, 33 and 34 have been withdrawn from consideration.

The applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10, 19-25, 35, 38, 39 and 41-48.

Claims 32 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over UK 4599 in view of FR 1,028,488. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

UK 4599 discloses a divided crank axle assembly for bicycles wherein cranks B, B<sup>1</sup> each are made one piece with substantially one-half of a crank axle C that extends into the bottom bracket shell (crank hanger) A of the bicycle.

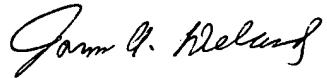
Claims 32 and 36 have been amended to incorporate the feature of allowed claim 1 that the crank arm does not form part of a crank axle dimensioned to extend into a bottom bracket shell of the bicycle. That is completely different from the arrangement shown in UK 4599. In fact, UK 4599 teaches away from such an arrangement because the whole purpose of UK 4599 is to construct a split axle that can be affixed together using the crank arms as tightening structures. Furthermore, there is nothing in FR 1,028,488 that would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the device disclosed in UK 4599 in a way that would still retain the objective of that reference.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 has been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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